(c) The Forest Survey of Idnia undertakes biennial assessment of forests including mangroves using Satellite Imagery, Bhitarkanika is one of the 35 identified mangrove sites for intensive conservation and management and is given assistance on 100% grant basis for various activities like Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation & Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, and Education & Awareness.

Coastal ECO System

4694. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether work relating to identificationmapping and digitization of the coastal ecosystem for the purpose of sustainable management has been taken up; and

(b) if so, the progress thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work relating to mapping and digitization of eco-sensitive areas had been assigned to Institure for Ocean Management, Anna University, Chennai. The Institute so far has identified, mapped and digitised the eco-sensitive areas in coastal areas of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Gujarat. With regard to the other coastal States and Union Territories, the work is in progress.

Violation of Environment Protection Act, 1986

4695. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted laying of Railway lines and drawing of high tension electric cables etc. to pass through forest areas and wildlife sanctuary as in case of the Kodagu district of Karnataka implying cutting of thousands of trees to create a 100 meter wide corridor for cables;

(b) whether such acts of omission and commission by Government tantamount to weakening and violation of Environment Protection Act, 1986; and

(c) whether such acts open up thick virgin forest areas to human intrusion for the first time leading to illegal poaching, logging and other environmentally destructive activities?